Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A simulator for inserting simulated network frames onto a physical medium for delivery to a system under test over a network, the simulator comprising:

a split-bridge device having a network interface card for communicating to-with the network-via said network interface card;

the bridge device including first and second interfaces; and

a frame generator, coupled to said the split bridge device via the first interface, for generating one or more at least one simulated network frames frame from each of multiple virtual clients according to a specific network communications protocol; wherein:

the said split-bridge device transfersring, via the second interface, one or more the at least one simulated network frames frame from each of the multiple virtual clients from the frame generator to said the system under test via the network to simulate traffic of the multiple virtual clients;

for each of the multiple virtual clients, a unique identifier combined with bridging information is associated with the at least one simulated network frame; and

the bridge device and receives ing one or more network frames from the system under test via the network in reply to the one or more simulated network frames transferred thereto based on a unique identifier combined with bridge routing information associated with said one or more simulated network frames, whereby multiple virtual clients are simulated.

- 2. (Currently amended) The simulator of claim 1, wherein the frame generator is coupled to the split-bridge device via a channel connection.
- 3. (Currently amended) The simulator of claim 1, wherein the frame generator is coupled to the split-bridge device via an Open System Adapter connection.



4. (Currently amended) A simulator enabling insertion of simulated network frames onto a physical medium for delivery to a system under test implementing one or more servers to achieve load balancing across a network, comprising:

a plurality of split bridges bridge devices, each having a network interface card, and each of said plurality of split bridges-connected to a respective one of the said one or more servers employed for load balancing and enabled to communicate via its respective network interface card to-with said the network; wherein:

wherein

one of the plurality of split bridge devices bridges is designated as a primary split bridge device for passing a received broadcast message, without delay, to the respective one of said the one or more servers, via its respective network interface card, and another of the plurality of split bridge devices bridges is designated as a secondary split bridge device for passing the received broadcast message, with a predetermined delay, to the respective one of said the one or more servers, via its respective network interface card; and

wherein subsequent messages are sent only to the primary split bridge device.

5. (Currently amended) A method for inserting simulated network frames onto a physical medium for delivery to a system under test, comprising:

connecting a split bridge device with a network interface card having a unique identifier to a network;

receiving simulated network frames from a frame generator coupled to the split bridge device;

configuring <u>routing</u> <u>bridging</u> information in the <u>split</u> bridge <u>device</u> to include identifiers associated with <u>said</u> <u>the</u> simulated network frames, <u>said</u> <u>the</u> identifiers emulating identifiers of a plurality of client workstations; and

forwarding the simulated network frames onto the network via the network interface card.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising:



receiving network frames representing replies from a server designated for said the plurality of client workstations based on the configured routing bridging information, wherein the received network frames have unique frame identifiers representing said the plurality of client workstations.

7. (Currently amended) A method for inserting simulated network frames onto a physical medium for delivery to a system under test implementing one or more servers to achieve load balancing, comprising:

connecting a split bridge device for each server in a load balancing system having a plurality of servers;

a primary of said the split bridge devices bridges transmitting a client request immediately to a first server connected to said the primary split bridge device;

a secondary of said the split bridge devices bridges-transmitting the client request after a predetermined amount of time to a second server connected to the secondary split bridge device; and

transmitting subsequent client requests to the primary of said split bridge device bridges.

8. (Currently amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform <u>a the</u> method <u>for steps of inserting</u> network frames onto a physical medium for delivery to a system under test, the method <u>steps</u>-comprising:

connecting a split bridge <u>device</u> with a network interface card having a unique identifier to a network;

receiving simulated network frames from a frame generator coupled to said the split bridge device;

configuring <u>routing</u> <u>bridging</u> information in <u>said</u> <u>the</u> <u>split</u> bridge <u>device</u> to include identifiers associated with the simulated network frames, <u>said</u> <u>the</u> identifiers emulating identifiers of a plurality of client workstations; and



forwarding the received simulated network frames onto the network via the network interface card.

9. (Currently amended) The program storage device as claimed in of claim 8, wherein the method steps further including includes:

receiving network frames representing replies from a server designated for said the plurality of client workstations based on the configured routing bridging information, wherein the received network frames have unique frame identifiers representing said the plurality of client workstations.

- 10. (New) The simulator of claim 1, wherein: the bridge device operates at a data link layer in a protocol stack.
- 11. (New) The simulator of claim 4, wherein: the bridge devices operate at a data link layer in a protocol stack.
- 12. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein: the bridge device operates at a data link layer in a protocol stack.
- 13. (New) The program storage device of claim 8, wherein: the bridge device operates at a data link layer in a protocol stack.
- 14. (New) The simulator of claim 1, wherein:

 for each of the multiple virtual clients, the unique identifier comprises a data link layer identifier.
- 15. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein:
 the identifiers associated with the simulated network frames comprises data link layer identifiers.



16. (New) The program storage device of claim 8, wherein:
the identifiers associated with the simulated network frames comprises data link layer identifiers.

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